

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004  
LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP  
WINNER MATTHEW CHARLES  
WIXSON, OF ALBION, MICHIGAN

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I salute Matthew Charles Wixson, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Matthew is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Matthew is an exceptional student at Concord High School. Aside from being at the top of his class academically, Matthew possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. He has run Varsity Track for four years and Varsity Cross Country for two years. Notable among his many school activities is his participation in Quiz Bowl, National Honor Society, and S.A.D.D. Matthew is also Treasurer for his graduating class.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join his many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Matthew Charles Wixson for his selection as winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes his efforts, but represents a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DELPHINE  
METCALF-FOSTER

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster on the occasion of her election as State Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans.

Delphine Metcalf-Foster was recently elected Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans, the first female to hold this position in the organization's 81 year history. Before that she was the Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans; again the first woman to hold these positions. As you will soon understand, Ms. Metcalf-Foster is a remarkable woman, a remarkable American and a great asset to her community and our country.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster retired from the Army Reserve as a First Sergeant after 21 years of

service, including as a combat veteran in the Gulf War/Desert Storm/Desert Shield 12 years ago. She is a recipient of a Bronze Star. Delphine retired from the Department of the Navy at the Alameda Naval Air Station as a Quality Assurance Specialist after 20 years. She has an Associate of Arts degree in psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from Sonoma State University (SSU). She is also active with the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

First Sergeant Metcalf-Foster has been awarded the following decorations and medals: Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (10c), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Bronze Star, NCO Professional Development Ribbon-3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, and the Army Label Button.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster's work with the Disabled American Veterans includes positions as the Past Chapter 21 Commander, the Past District 1 Commander, the Past Department Commander's Aide for the North, and the Past National Commander's Aide.

In 2003 Ms. Metcalf-Foster agreed to join a Veterans Advisory Board that I formed with Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER to help us stay in close contact with veterans in our districts. Delphine has been very helpful to us in that role.

In addition to her current position with the California Disabled American Veterans, Ms. Metcalf-Foster is also Adjutant for Chapter 21, attends Graduate School at Sonoma State University, volunteers as a mentor for teen mothers, speaks at history classes at SSU regarding women in the military, and is the annual speaker at Solano College during Women's History Month. She is married to Jimmie S. Foster Sr., is the mother of three, grandmother of six including Sgt. Jacare Hogan who just returned from Iraq after a 13-month tour, and great-grandmother of two. She lives in Vallejo.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize Ms. Metcalf-Foster for her service to her country, her many remarkable contributions to her fellow veterans and her community, and that we wish her well in her new position as Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans.

STATEMENT OF JOHAN  
SCHÖLVINCK, DIRECTOR, DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, UNITED NATIONS ON "INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION" BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, MARCH 30, 2004

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, "International Disability Rights: The Proposed

UN Convention." This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Schölvinnck; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Mr. Schölvinnck be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PRESENTATION BY JOHAN SCHÖLVINCK

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to this historic briefing on the proposed UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. It is an honour and a pleasure being here with you.

I will confine my remarks to describe the situation faced by persons with disabilities in developing countries. I believe that the disheartening picture that will emerge from what I am about to say will be further proof of the need for a UN Convention.

First let me cite some statistics: 80 percent of people with disabilities and their families live in a developing country. Between 400 and 500 million people living in a developing country have a disability.

Persons with disabilities are often trapped in a cycle of poverty and exclusion. For 150 million of them, disability has been caused by malnutrition and contagious diseases while conflicts and war accounts for a few millions. As many as 1 in 5 of the poorest people have a disability.

These are staggering figures.

Furthermore, persons with disabilities are frequently cut off from employment opportunities and suffer unemployment rates far higher than that of the non-disabled workforce. In many developing countries, it is estimated that 80 percent or more of the disabled are unemployed, which further contributes to their high incidence of poverty and social exclusion.

While persons with disabilities also face similar challenges in developed countries the situation is far worse in developing countries where both disability benefits and vocational rehabilitation services may be virtually nonexistent. In such cases, the disabled are often left dependent, destitute and despairing. Given the relatively small size of the formal labour market in most developing countries, particularly in rural areas where many of